GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1988
ANSWERED ON:08.03.2000
SEA MUSSEL CULTURE
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI) provides technical help for open sea mussel culture;

(b) if so, number of farmers benefitted from this mussel culture so far in the coastal areas of various States, State-wise;

(c) whether any survey has been conducted regarding commercial viability of mussel culture;

(d) if so, details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to popularise mussel culture among aqua farmers on the West Coast opening up a whole new range of products such as mud crabs, oysters clams and sweet water prawns?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) : The CMFRI provides technical support to the fish farmers for setting up mussel farms in the open seas and estuaries.The details of the number of farmers from the coastal states, benefitted from this technical sport are as under

States	No. of farmers benefitted
Maharashtra	5
Goa	6
Karnataka	24
Kerala	165
Tamil Nadu	27
Andhra Pradesh	5
Andaman Islands	4

(c) & (d) : Feasibility surveys have been conducted by CMFRI to assess the commercial viability of mussel culture in open seas as well as in estuarine areas. At present, most of the small scale commercial mussel farms are located in Kerala and Karnataka.Several farms have been set up through financial assistance under the programmes on Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Training of Rural Youth in Self Employment (TRYSEM), Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and other loc Gramin Banks.

(e) The CMFRI conducts regular training programmes and demonstrations in the coastal rural districts for the benefit of State Govt fisheries officials, NGOs, rural women and unemployment youths under their institute-based programmes and also through its Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK) and Trainers Training Centre (TTC).The CMFRI also organizes monthly scientist-farmers-industry meets to popularise various sea-farming technologies, including mussel culture. Brochures and Pamphlets in vernacular languages on mussel culture are being distributed among coastal fish farmers. The CMFRI has taken up programmes on integrated sea farming incorporating the mussel, edible oysters, clams, mud crabs and other estuarine fish species.